



***The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability***

and

***South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
present***

***South Carolina Environmental Leadership Forum
Strengthening Communities from Within***

Application Opening Date: Monday, September 16, 2013

Application Closing Date: Monday, October 14, 2013

Maximum Number of Participants: 25 participants

Who May Apply:

- Citizens; community, non-profit organizations, grassroots organizations and environmental leaders; local and state government officials; students and professors; businesses; and, industry leaders who are engaged, active, and have a vested interest in improving the environmental quality of their community

Program Focus:

Through a series of workshops, the South Carolina Environmental Leadership Forum (Forum) will bring together various stakeholders to network while working together to become more effective leaders and more informed citizens on environmental issues. The Forum's curriculum will incorporate a wide variety of information from highly qualified speakers. Forum participants will learn valuable skills and tools such as identifying leadership styles, becoming a more effective communicator, learning how to address conflict, learning about environmental justice, learning the roles and responsibilities of environmental agencies, and much more. By incorporating a variety of participating stakeholders, the Forum will encourage collaborative problem-solving to create shared solutions to common issues and emphasize the concept that a unified community can have a voice.

Program Goals:

- Build upon existing leadership capacity within environmental justice communities
- Increase participants' ability to advocate for environmental rights effectively



- Educate participants on regulatory roles, responsibilities and some environmental programs
- Improve relationships between local stakeholders in communities
- Spread awareness of environmental justice
- Strengthen environmental justice communities from within

Responsibilities of Selected Participants

Commitment of Time and Attendance: The Forum will consist of 4 two-day workshops. All participants will be required to attend each of the 4 two-day workshops in order to receive a certificate of completion.

If a member is absent from a session, they will be responsible for acquiring the information covered during the workshop, in addition to completing the assignments that were given if applicable. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to adhere to the terms described above if they are selected for the program.

Program: All participants will meet for 4 two-day workshops to discuss topics related to the environment, leadership, community organization development, and environmental justice. Topics include:

- Leadership Styles
- Effective Communication
- Community leadership, competencies and practices
- Intercultural competency, diversity and inclusion
- Member and volunteer management
- Conflict and Negotiation
- Local Government 101

Assignments: After each workshop, participants may be given an assignment that is to be completed before the next session. The purpose of these assignments is to reinforce what participants learned during the day and give them a viable way to apply these lessons in their community. These assignments serve as the groundwork for their independent projects.

University Partnership: Participants may be partnered with a college student/graduate student/faculty member from a historically black college/university (HBCU) in South Carolina or another university in South Carolina. These students will assist the participants with their projects and homework assignments. They will also be expected to make at least one trip to the participant's community during the beginning portion of the program.



How to Apply

Each applicant must submit a **complete application package**, which consists of the following:

- Applicant Information Form (Form A)
- Responses to essay questions (Form B)

Applications are found at the end of this document or online at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/envjustice/>

To be considered for selection, applications must be submitted by Monday, October 7, by 11:59 pm. Applications can be mailed to Karen Sprayberry at SC DHEC, Bureau of Air Quality, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; or emailed to spraybkj@dhec.sc.gov. If you have any questions, please contact her at (803) 898-1249; however, please recognize that only general information will be provided. If more than one individual is applying from the same community, please submit separate applications and include the names of the other applicants to be considered collectively.

Selection Process

- A review panel made up of representatives from EPA, SC DHEC and the Forum's Steering Committee members will rate and rank candidates' applications based on responses to the assessment questions in Form B.
- The top 30 applicants will be sent on to a second round for further review. From these 30, the final 25 participants will be selected. The remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list should any of the originally selected participants choose to forfeit their attendance at the Forum.
- All participants will be notified of the selection decision through mail. Those who were selected will also be notified through email.

* Each application will be assigned a letter and a number (A1, A2, A3, etc.). This is to assure anonymity and fairness during the process. The review panel will *not* have access to Form A.

For More Information, Contact:

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FORM A

South Carolina Environmental Leadership Forum Application Form

Applicant's Name (First and Last):

Community (City/Town/Neighborhood/Zip):

Please check which category you most represent as a stakeholder:

- ☐ individual citizen ☐ student
☐ environmental/grassroots group; If yes, name: _____
☐ non-profit organization. If yes, name: _____
☐ academia (student or professor). If yes, name: _____
☐ local government. If yes, name: _____
☐ state agency. If yes, name: _____

Contact Information including email address:

Best number to contact you:

Best time(s) to contact you:

How did you find out about this opportunity?

Are others from your stakeholder group applying for the Forum? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If so, should their application(s) be considered in conjunction with your application? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 Name(s) of other applicant(s) to be considered:



FORM B

Assessment Questions

Please respond in 200-300 words to each of the following questions. The maximum allowed per answer is 300 words. The total score for each participant is 100 points.

1. Tell us about yourself, your background, and some of your most important values.
2. How long have you lived in your community and what groups are you a part of?
3. List your current and previous community-related service, leadership, or mission work.
4. Why do you want to participate in the South Carolina Environmental Leadership Forum?
5. Describe your current community. Is this an environmental justice community?
6. Have you or are you dealing with an environmental issue within your community? If so, what is it and what was the end result?
7. How do you presently engage your community on an issue?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest, how would you rate your level of organization and ability to motivate people? Why did you give the rating you did?
9. What do you hope to gain from participating in the Forum?
10. What concern and/or project would you like to address using the information, skills, and tools you will acquire from the Forum?